

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in Japan on August 25, 2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the JP 2003-300241 application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

3. Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Gerald Levy on 05/28/2008.

4. The application has been amended as follows:

(a) As to claim 1, line 8, delete "around rotational axis" and replace it with --around a rotational axis--.

(b) As to claim 1, line 14, delete "based on a measured values" and replace it with --based on measured values--.

(c) As to claim 1, lines 17-18, delete "the tire in the rotational axis direction" and replace it with --the direction of the rotational axis--.

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- (d) As to claims 2-7, line 1, delete "A method" and replace it with --The method--.
- (e) As to claim 2, line 3, delete "on first and second" and replace it with --on the first and second--.
- (f) As to claim 2, line 4, delete "to both of the tire" and replace it with --to both the tire--.
- (g) As to claim 5, lines 6 and 7, delete "friction" and replace it with --frictional--.
- (h) As to claim 5, line 8, delete "being so large as enough" and replace it with --being large enough--.
- (i) As to claim 5, line 9, delete "and is smaller" and replace it with --and being smaller--.
- (j) As to claim 6, line 2, delete "tire acts on first and" and replace it with --tire acts on the first and--.
- (k) As to claim 7, line 1, delete "any of claim" and replace it with --any of claims--.
- (l) As to claim 7, line 2, delete "performed on uniformity" and replace it with --performed on the uniformity--.
- (m) As to claim 7, line 3, delete "result of measurement" and replace it with --result of the measurement--.
- (n) As to claim 8, line 3, delete "around the rotational" and replace it with --around a rotational--.
- (o) As to claim 8, line 8, delete "measuring force" and replace it with --measuring a force--.
- (p) As to claim 8, line 14, delete "acts on first and second plane" and replace it with

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--acts on first and second planes--.

(q) As to claims 9-17, line 1, delete "An apparatus" and replace it with --The apparatus--.

(r) As to claim 9, line 3, delete "acting on first" and replace it with --acting on the first--.

(s) As to claim 9, line 4, delete "to both of the" and replace it with --to both the--.

(t) As to claim 12, lines 7 and 8, delete "friction force" and replace it with --frictional force--.

(u) As to claim 12, line 8, delete "being so large as enough" and replace it with --being large enough--.

(v) As to claim 12, line 9, delete "drum and is smaller" and replace it with --drum and being smaller--.

(w) As to claim 13, line 2, delete "acts on first and" and replace it with --acts on the first and--.

(x) As to claim 16, lines 1-2, delete "according to claim 8-11" and replace it with --according to any of claims 8-11--.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

5. Claims 1-17 are allowed.

6. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

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(a) As to independent claims 1 and 8, note is made only of the limitation "computing the forces which the tire acts on first and second planes of the tire while the tire is rotating" based on the "first and second planes" as particularly defined in claims 1 and 8 and in combination with the rest of the respective limitations in the claims.

Note is also made of the benefit of the above-mentioned limitations (specification, page 4, lines 12-16).

(b) The closest reference Matsumoto et al. (European Patent Application Publication EP 1239275 A2 henceforth "Matsumoto") discloses a tire (T) uniformity measurement apparatus (1) comprising a spindle (120) for rotating the tire (T) around a rotational axis thereof, a rotating drum (30) pressed against the tire (T) and being adapted to rotate around the rotational axis thereof as the tire (T) rotates, a sensor (185) for measuring the force transmitted from the tire (T) to the spindle (120), said force being measured at two different positions in the rotational axis direction of the tire (T), and a computing means for computing the non-uniformity of the tire (T).

However, Matsumoto does not teach or provide motivation for computing the forces by which the tire acts on two different planes perpendicular to the rotational axis of the tire and located on each sidewall of the tire, as specifically defined in claims 1 and 8.

(c) Therefore, the prior art does not disclose or provide motivation to combine the above-mentioned limitation in combination with the rest of the limitations in the claim.

7. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon, cited in the attached 892 form, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Samir M. Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-2671. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10:00 am to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hezron Williams can be reached on (571) 272-2208. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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10. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Samir M. Shah

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05/28/2008

/Hezron Williams/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2856